

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12639 090840Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 SS-15
/034 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5934

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USINJC

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION

REF: STATE 212993

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SUBCOMMISSION WITH S.V.S. JUNEJA, MOF. GOI, HE SAID, WOULD NOT WANT TO DOWNGRADE LEVEL OF SUBCOMMISSION AT THIS TIME. IN PAST, GOI HAD RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY AS US CO-CHAIRMAN WHILE INDIAN SIDE CO-CHAIR BY THIRD RANKING OFFICIAL IN MOF. IT WAS MORE APPROPRIATE, HE SAID, THAT US SIDE SHOULD BE CHAIRED BY UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL.

2. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH, SECRETARY, MOF AND DESIGNATED CHAIRMAN ON INDIAN SIDE, HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED JUNEJA TO MAKE THIS POINT AND TO ASK IF UNDERSECRETARY COOPER MIGHT BE AVAILABLE AS US CO-CHAIRMAN.

3. JUNEJA SAID THAT SINGH WAS LEAVING DELHI ON THE 15TH OR 16TH OF THIS MONTH TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTER'S MEETING. IF DATES OF SUBCOMMISSION WERE TO BE OCTOBER 3-4, THERE WILL BE LITTLE TIME TO BRIEF SINGH BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. FROM THAT STANDPOINT, A LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER DATE WOULD BE PREFERABLE. HOWEVER, IF THE UNDERSECRETARY WAS

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AVAILABLE OCTOBER 3 AND 4, GOI WOULD AGREE TO THOSE DATES DESPITE THIS PROBLEM.

4. S. KRISHNASWAMY, WHO WILL CHAIR INDIAN SIDE OF THE AGRICULTURE INPUT WORKING GROUP, WILL NOT RETURN TO DELHI UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10. THEREFORE, JUNEJA UNABLE TO VERIFY THE OCTOBER 5-6 DATES FOR MEETING. HE SAID, HOWEVER, GOI WOULD STILL

WANT AGRICULTURE GROUP TO MEET BEFORE THE SUBCOMMISSION.

5. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT SINGH, DURING RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, HAD SUGGESTED DOWNGRADING LEVEL OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. WE BELIEVE HE WAS OVERRULED BY THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HERE AND FOR THIS REASON MOF NOW ATTACHES SUCH IMPORTANCE TO LEVEL OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. INCLUDING DISCUSSION ON DEVELOPMENT POLICY IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO SINGH, AND IN ADDITION HE HAS KNOWN UNDERSECRETARY FOR SOME TIME AND, ACCORDING TO JUNEJA, HE WOULD ESPECIALLY LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH HIM AGAIN.

6. JUNEJA ASKED ECON COUNSELOR TO CONVEY POINTS HE MADE TO DEPARTMENT AS OFFICIAL GOI RESPONSE. HE HOPED FOR AN EARLY REPLY AS INTERMINISTRY MEETINGS ON AGENDA AND TRAVEL SCHEDULES OF VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS WILL BE COORDINATED IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
GOHEEN

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